

# Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network (WPacFIN)

- **Goal:** To provide quality fisheries data on a timely basis for use in managing fisheries resources in the U.S. Pacific EEZs
- WPacFIN is a cooperative voluntary 'state'- federal program
- NMFS PIFSC Program (1981)
- **Operationally:** we assist US Pacific islands fisheries agencies establish and maintain fisheries monitoring programs by providing technical support and assistance and some funding
- **Types of Technical Support**
  - Data Collection System Analysis and Design
  - Computer Data Processing System Design and Development
  - Data Analysis and Report Generation
  - Training on All Aspects of Fisheries Monitoring

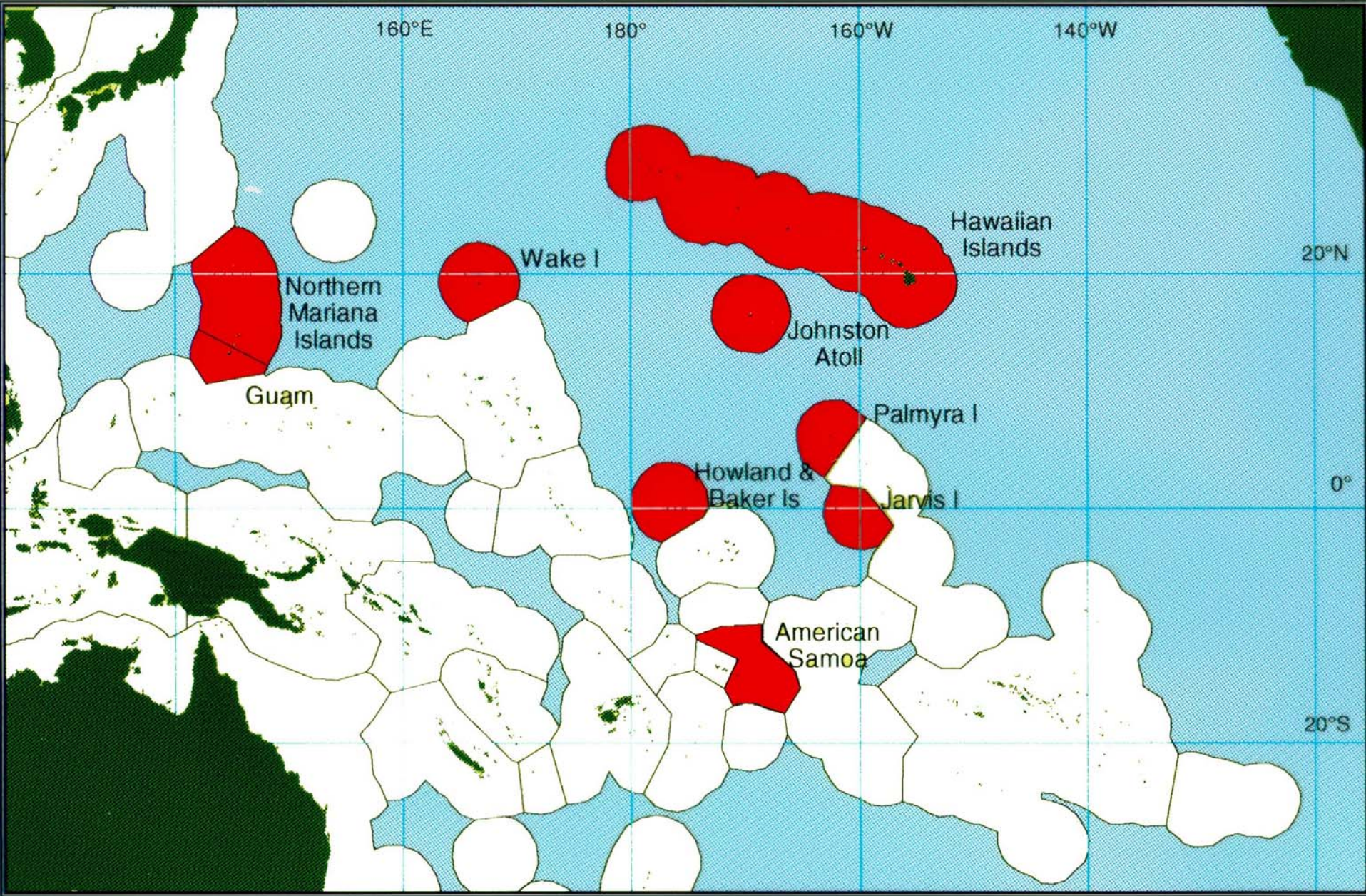
# Member Agencies

- NMFS: PIFSC and PIRO
- Council: WPRFMC
- Am.Samoa Dept. Marine and Wildlife Res.
- Hawaii Div. of Aquatic Resources
- Guam Div. of Aquatic and Wildlife Res.
- Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans
- CNMI Div. of Fish and Wildlife

# FMPs Supported

- Pelagics
- Bottomfish and Seamount fisheries
- Crustaceans
- Precious Corals
- Coral Reef Ecosystem





**Exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of the Pacific Islands.**

**Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council EEZ area shown in red. (Map courtesy of WPRFMC)**



# Fisheries Monitoring Programs Used in the U.S. Pacific Islands (Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, CNMI)

- Almost every combination of:
  - Mandatory vs. Voluntary
  - Census vs. Sampling
  - Staff collected vs. Industry
  - Long-term vs. Short-term

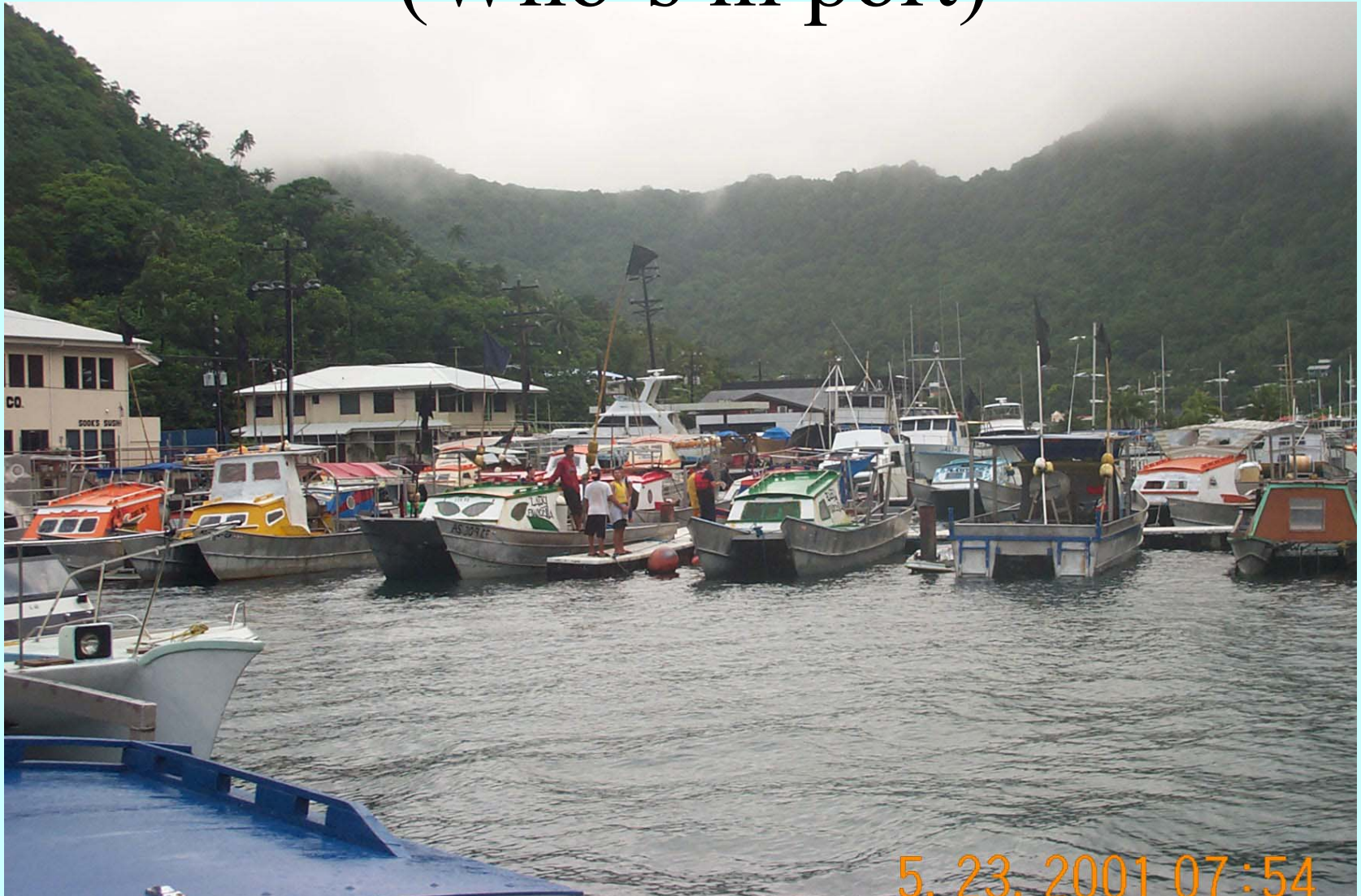
# Fisheries Monitoring Tools

- Logbooks (federal and state)
- Observer Programs
- Dealer reports: “Trip Ticket” receipts: invoices of sales
- Fisherman reports: catch/effort/sales
- Market sampling
- Creel surveys: participation and catch/effort
- Tournament sampling
- Vessel classification/registration
- Transshipments/exports
- Imports
- Specialize biological sampling and research projects

# Island Data Systems

System	NMFS	Samoa	Guam	CNMI	Hawaii
Logbooks	X			?	X
Observer Programs	X	?			X
Dealer reports		X	X	X	X
Fisherman reports					X
Market sampling	X	X	X	X	X
Creel surveys	X	X	X	X	X
Tournament sampling	X	X	X	X	X
Vessel classification	X	X	X	X	X
Transshipments/exports		X	X	X	
Imports			X	X	
Research projects	X	X	X	X	X

# Participation Counts (Who's in port)



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# Participation Counts (Who's out fishing)



# Creel Survey Participation Vessel/Trailer Counts



WPacFIN

5/5/1999 11:16



# Creel Vessel Counts



1/3/1999 17:23

# Aerial Counts of Participation (Inshore Survey and Remote Areas)



2/5/2002



# Fisherman Interviews

(Hours fished, area fished, bycatch, disposition)



# Fisherman Interviews (catch/effort by gear types)



# Dockside Interviews

(Length Frequency, Species Composition)



# Dock-side Creel Sampling (landings, weight frequency)





# Dockside Interviews (Length/Weight Regressions)



# Sampling into the night



# Market Sampling





# Market Sampling





# Market Sampling



# Market Sampling



# Market Sampling (accurate data)



# Tournament Sampling (Builds Fisherman Rapport)



# Tournament Sampling (Enhances Public Relations)





# Tournaments

## Biological Sampling



# Vessel Classification





# Vessel Classification



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# Transshipment



# Transshipment Fish Weights



# Transshipment/Export



# Specialize Biological Sampling and Research Projects





# Size Frequency Sampling



# Stomach Content and Sexual Maturity Studies



# Otolith Removal for Age and Growth Studies



# Gonad Staging for Spawning Seasonality





# Stock Structure Research DNA Sampling



No matter what combination of  
fisheries monitoring tools you  
chose to use...

Data Quality is IMPORTANT

# TO BE SUCCESSFUL TAKES:

- Long Term Commitment
- Dedication/Commitment/Capability of Staff and Management
- Good Planning, Design, and Follow Through
- Perseverance and Persistence
- Cooperation and Communication
- Flexibility to Changing Fisheries
- Evolution of Data Systems
  - (subsistence-commercial-recreational)

Question?





